

Testifying Against S/BABA 5439

21 years in business this week, 3 offices in FFld. Cnty, between me and LM, we cover the entire state. Have serviced thousands of seniors and REFERRED thousands of caregivers and we are very proud of the work we do each and every day.

After listening to ____ hours of testimony I am certain you understand the benefits of what Registries provide.

GSC has been paying into W/comp from our inception. We have been paying into U.I. in a unique way which was decided on by the DOL.

The compromise legislation known as the Griswold Home Care Amendment that is in front of you is exactly that..... A compromise which will protect the Registry model from extinction, allow for continued consumer choice, added protections for the caregivers such as a better hourly wage, flexibility while satisfying the DOL and the DRS.

The basic problem with the DOL's proposal is the requirement for State Income Tax w/holding. This would cause all registries to go full payroll which will in effect REDUCE caregiver wages and INCREASE the cost of Homecare to Seniors.

My ability to serve the indigent population through the CT Homecare for Elders Program would be severely hampered. The reimbursement rates are much lower than private pay rates and when registries pay our caregivers 20% on average, if we then bore the burden of full payroll we would no longer provide many of those service. Doing away with the registry model will severely reduce the available caregiver pool who serves the indigent..

Every State in the US allows for a registry model of some sort?? (Tom is checking on this) In NJ and Texas for example, registries are regulated and pay into U.I. and Workers' Comp just to name two.

To eliminate the registry model, in my humble opinion would be a breach of power and a severe overreach. CT is already one of the most challenging states to live and especially to retire.

Without Registries, you are eliminating consumer choice, you are driving up the cost of homecare, you are reducing the wages of caregivers who are already one of the lowest paid workers, you are reducing the ability to service Medicaid clients due to very low reimbursement rates. And last but not least you will drive business underground as Seniors on a fixed income would be forced to hire non-screened, unreferenced individuals.

Ct is already one of the most challenging states to live in and to retire in.

PLEASE REVIEW THE GHC PROPOSAL AS WE DO BELIEVE THIS WILL SATISFY ALL PARTIES OF INTEREST. IT ALLOWS FOR THE COLLECTION OF WORKERS COMP, U.I. AND A REPORTING OF WAGE REQUIREMENT FOR THE DRS WITHOUT THE NECESSITY OF W/HOLDING STATE TAXES. Due to the critical nature of the necessity of caregiver protections, we urge you to move this bill forward as amended to the GHC Model. Misclassification of worker is a huge issue and ruling on this bill would mitigate any negative outcomes for registries in this area.

Cathy Howard
Griswold Special Care